



2010 Legislative Update & Survey

30th LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

Winter 2010

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 - Health & Human Services
 - Appropriations
- Local Government & Housing
 - State Government & Tribal Affairs



WASHINGTON STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

I hope the new year finds you well and that it will be a good year for you and your loved ones.

I'm writing to update you on the ongoing legislative session and to ask for your thoughts on important issues we're facing in our 30th District and across Washington. Please take a moment to fill out the enclosed survey on page three. Hearing from you helps me to represent you and our local communities in the Legislature.

Hearing your priorities is more important than ever. As you'll see inside, the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression has fueled a serious state budget crisis. Anyone who believes that we can just do nothing or tax our way out of this problem, doesn't understand the problems we face.

Instead, **we need to focus**, prioritize, and improve government performance. We need to focus **on creating more middle-class jobs and small businesses** that really make a difference to our future and people's lives. New revenues are at best a temporary band-aid unless we reform how every tax dollar is used and create a state climate that develops middle-class jobs and stable families. That is my goal as Chair of the recently-created House Audit Review & Oversight Committee, and as your representative.

We're starting to see signs of economic recovery, but these are still hard times for Washington and for many of our neighbors. Martin Luther King, Jr. would say that these are the times when we need to have tough minds and tender hearts—tough minds to make hard choices about priorities, and tender hearts to remember and show compassion for people in need.

The Legislature only has 60 days this year to spur job growth, help our schools and meet other needs. But if leaders stay focused, we can make this a very productive session.

As always, please feel free to email, phone or write me with your comments and suggestions. You're the reason I'm here.

I'm here to serve you,

Mark

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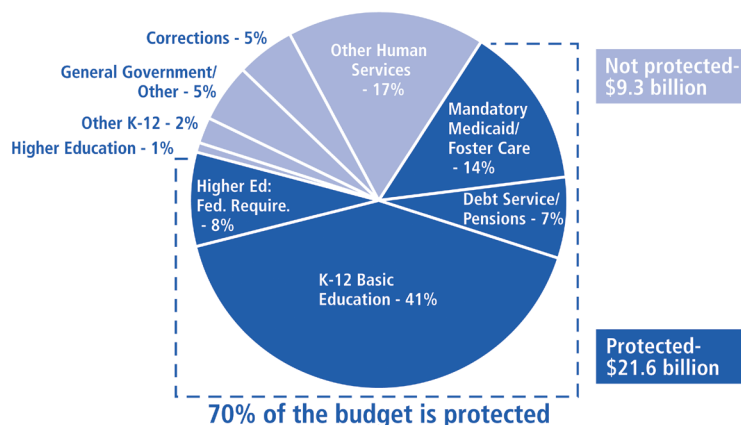
The Budget: We need smart choices for hard times

The global economic crisis and record unemployment has caused the need for state services to increase at the same time that it has caused our revenues to plunge. The result is a \$2.6 billion budget crisis that threatens to further harm our schools and other essential services.

Those who blame *all* of our budget problems on the recession are mistaken. As the Chair of the Audit Review and Oversight Committee, I *know* there is more we can do to make government services faster, better and cheaper. Smart policies that promote secure families and family-wage jobs would also significantly reduce long-term government costs.

If you have ideas for making government services more efficient and less costly, please send them to me. Many of the best ideas for reforming government come from individuals and businesses that regularly deal with government services or regulations.

But government reform is an ongoing task, and the budget must be balanced *immediately*. Last year, we made \$4 *billion* in budget cuts that impacted our schools, senior and social services, and virtually every other state-funded service. This year will be even harder, because we're cutting from a smaller pie—and most of the remaining budget is protected by the constitution or



federal laws. If Gov. Gregoire's preliminary budget—which assumes no new revenues—is passed:

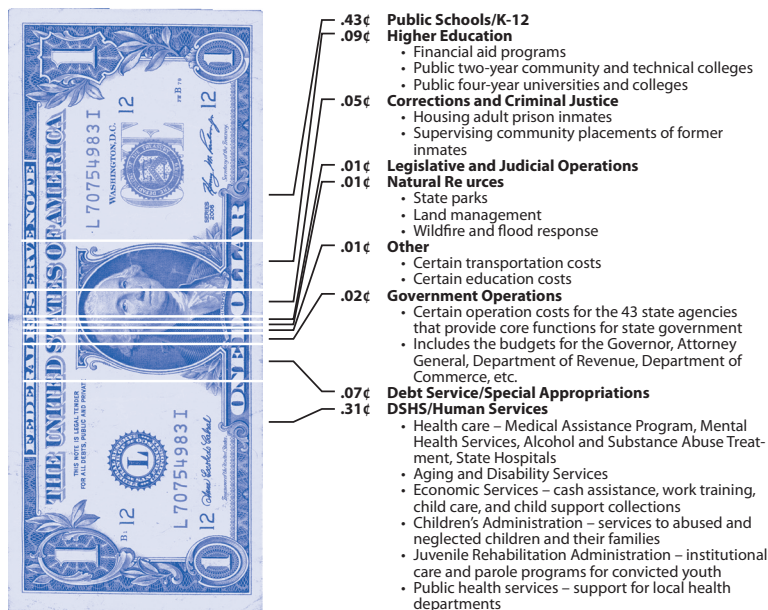
- 50,000 pregnant women will lose prenatal support.
- 100,000 people, including 16,000 children, will lose health coverage;
- 12,300 college students will lose a crucial source of financial aid;
- 1,500 three-year-olds will lose early learning opportunities.
- Thousands of seniors would lose "meals on wheels" and other services.
- Public safety, job-training and other programs would be slashed.

Gov. Gregoire has called these choices unacceptable. I agree. We need to make better choices. I will not support a budget that forgets our paramount duty to education—or that forgets the values that made our state and country great.

Highlights from Mark's other priorities for 2010

- Improve the efficiency and effectiveness of all state government, using lessons learned from the private sector and the recently-created Audit Review & Oversight Committee that I chair.
- Ensure and enforce the highest standards of integrity and ethics for all government employees and elected officials, while reigning in special interests.
- Increase the number and percentage of family-wage jobs, and provide the education that enables Washington students to land the best jobs when they graduate.

Where your tax dollars go.



2010 Citizen Survey

Lawmakers approved nearly \$4 billion of cuts to state services and programs last year. Now the state is facing an additional shortfall currently estimated at \$2.6 billion.

1. How should lawmakers close that gap?

- ☐ Cut spending
- ☐ Raise revenues
- ☐ A mix of spending cuts and new revenue
- ☐ Develop policies that reduce the need for government services and make those services more efficient.

2. If you could only tackle one problem in Washington state, what would that be?

- ☐ Create more family-wage jobs
- ☐ Cut taxes
- ☐ Improve public schools
- ☐ Privatize schools
- ☐ Fix health care
- ☐ Tougher prison sentences
- ☐ Clean up the environment
- ☐ Cut red tape for land development
- ☐ Promote responsibility and accountability

3. What should we do to create jobs?

- ☐ Create direct jobs, as FDR did during the Great Depression
- ☐ Invest in education and retraining for laid-off workers
- ☐ Cut taxes and red tape
- ☐ Wait for the economy to rebound

4. Do you think the state is heading in the right direction or wrong direction?

- ☐ Right direction
- ☐ Wrong direction

5. Generally, how would you grade the quality of the following government services and programs?
(A to F. A = best, just like school grades.)

	Best			Worst	
K-12/Public schools	A	B	C	D	F
Higher education	A	B	C	D	F
Health care	A	B	C	D	F
Long-term care	A	B	C	D	F
Developmental disabilities	A	B	C	D	F
Mental health	A	B	C	D	F
Other human services	A	B	C	D	F
Corrections and criminal justice	A	B	C	D	F
Protecting our natural resources	A	B	C	D	F
Workforce development/job training	A	B	C	D	F
Law enforcement	A	B	C	D	F

6. What grade would you give Governor Christine Gregoire?

- ☐ A
- ☐ B
- ☐ C
- ☐ D
- ☐ E

7. What grade would you give me as your representative?

- ☐ A
- ☐ B
- ☐ C
- ☐ D
- ☐ E

PLEASE USE THIS SPACE TO SHARE ANY COMMENT, SUGGESTION OR CONCERN YOU WISH.

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Rep. Mark Miloscia

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Please help me to stay in touch and reduce costs. Visit my web site (<http://housedemocrats.wa.gov/members/miloscia>) and sign up for my Legislative Action Alerts.



Email is the by far least expensive way to communicate with the people I serve.



Stan McCall, Dayshift Commander for the Federal Way Police Department, joins Mark's call to expand DNA testing to improve public safety.

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